**2 Timothy 2:1-13**

***“A Good Soldier”***

**Scripture:** 2 Timothy 2:1-13

**Memory Verse:** *“You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.”*

2 Timothy 2:3

**Lesson Focus:** We are soldiers for Jesus Christ.

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Pictures, Gideon Frees Israel Puzzle

Craft for 1st & 2nd Grade: “Gideon’s Horn”

**Introduction:** Ask the kids; “what kind of things makes you strong?”

(Bring in hand weights and ask for a few volunteers.) Give each of the kids a hand weight and see who can raise it above their heads the most. Have fun doing several exercises with different kids.

Ask the kids: “why does lifting weights strengthen our muscles?

(Weight lifting changes the muscle tissue on the cellular level – they break down and rebuild.)

**Bible Study:**

 **2 Timothy 2:1: *“Strong in Grace.”***

 √ What is Timothy supposed to be strong in? (grace)

 √ Where do we get grace? (in Christ Jesus)

 √ What is grace? (undeserved favor)

 √ How do we get grace through Jesus?

Ephesians 2:8, “*For by grace you have been saved through faith and that not of yourselves it is the gift of God…”*

We receive God’s grace when we believe in Jesus as our Savior. Jesus died on the cross for our sins and all we have to do is believe that Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross and it is through Jesus that we have eternal life. We were sinners when Jesus died for our sins. We deserved nothing from God. But God demonstrates His grace through Jesus on the cross.

√ What do you think Paul means when he tells Timothy to be strong in the grace that is in Jesus Christ?

Strong in grace:

1. Don’t forget what Jesus has done for us.
2. Exercise our minds to think and focus on the grace of God.
3. Read the Word of God that reveals the grace of God over and over again.
4. Grow in grace daily. (James 4:6)

**2 Timothy 2:2:** ***“Teach Others.”***

Paul wants to urge Timothy to find faithful men that love Jesus to help him teach the word. The church functions when each of us uses our gifts that the Spirit of God has given us. Timothy or Paul could not do this job alone.

 Paul teaches Timothy

 Timothy teaches other faithful men.

 Faithful men teach others.

 **2 Timothy 2:3-4:** ***“A Good Soldier.”***

1. **Endure Hardships as a good Soldier:**

√ What does it mean to endure?

 √ What are they supposed to endure? (hardships)

 √ What kind of hardships do you think Timothy and others endured?

 √ How does Paul tell them to endure these hardships?

 (Like a good soldier)

 Let’s talk about being a good soldier.

 √ Who knows someone who is serving in the military?

 √What does a soldier do in the military?

 √ Who’s orders does a soldier follow?

 (whoever is his superior)

Following orders: When a soldier is given orders he must follow them. It does not matter if it will be hard. It does not matter if he may lose his life. He does what he is told to do. If he does not follow orders he will be dismissed from service.

Paul is telling Timothy that we need to endure hardships that come along like a good soldier. It does not matter how hard things get…we just keep marching forward. If God allows hardships in our lives because we believe in Jesus then we know that God is in charge. And since God is in charge we obey and ask for the strength to live through it. **We don’t focus on asking God to take away the hardship – we focus on obeying God through the hardship.** We focus on the strength that we get through the power of the Holy Spirit to help us through hardships.

Do you remember the song “The Lords Army? (sing the song)

I may never march in the infantry

Ride in the cavalry

Shoot the artillery

I may never fly o'er the enemy

But I'm in the Lord's army!

Yes Sir!

I'm in the Lord's army!

Yes sir!

I'm in the Lord's army!

Yes sir!

I may never march in the infantry

Ride in the cavalry

Shoot the artillery

I may never fly o'er the enemy

But I'm in the Lord's army!

Yes sir!

This song reflects the truth that we are in the Lord’s Army. We serve our master and King Jesus. We follow His marching orders.

1. **Don’t “entangle” yourself in this Life as a good Soldier.**

√ What does Paul tell Timothy that we are engaged in? (warfare)

√ What “warfare” are we engaged in and what weapons do we use?

1. Warfare: “wiles of the devil” Ephesians 6:10-18

Weapons: The armor of god

1. Warfare: “Pulling down strongholds” 2 Corinthians 10:3-6

Weapons: “Mighty in God”

1. Warfare: Those that oppose the living God (1 Samuel 17:47)

Weapon: “The battle is the Lords”

Through all of these verses and many more we see that God is the one who fights for us. We cannot fight the things of this world and our sin on our own. Make no mistake we are engaged in warfare while we are on this earth. We war against our sin nature that wants to have control over us. We war against the world that wants us to follow its ways. The biggest mistake a Christian can make is to think that we are not at war.

√ What does a soldier not do according to 2 Timothy 2:4?

 A soldier does Not Entangle himself in the things of this life.

√ What does it mean to “entangle?” (to be tripped up)

√ What things can “trip us up” in this life?

1. Focusing on the wrong things (money, fame, popularity, etc)
2. Love of self – or selfishness
3. What we put into our minds (TV – movies – music)

A good soldier does what he is told to do. If he is on a mission he focuses on the mission and does not leave the mission to go see a movie. Now, nothing is wrong with some movies, but it is wrong when it get our minds off of serving God. A soldier wants to please his commander. We should want to follow God and please Him in everything we do.

 **2 Timothy 2:5-6:** “*Examples of serving God*”

1. Athlete: Paul tells us that an athlete does not win the race unless he competes according to the rules.

√ Can you think of an athlete that lost because he broke the rules?

 (Lance Armstrong – was a great athlete that broke the rules about using drugs to enhance his performance and he lost his “crown” of winning 7 Tour de France.) There are rules to follow in any completion and you lose if you do not follow them.

1. Farmer: The farmer works hard to produce his crops and then is the first to enjoy them. The reward will outweigh the hard work or “toil.” (1 Corinthians 15:58)

**2 Timothy 2:7-13:** “*Understanding the Gospel.”*

1. Jesus was raised from the dead (2 Timothy 2:8)

√ Why is the resurrection important to the Gospel? (1 Corinthians 15; if Jesus is not raised from the dead then we have no hope.)

1. When the gospel is preached you will suffer. The world does not like the message of the cross and resurrection.

√ What does Paul say about “chains?”

1. Paul was in chains
2. The Word of God cannot be chained

Paul is saying that we may suffer for the Gospel, but God’s word will still go forth and bring its result.

Look at the promise from verse 11-13:

1. If we die – we live with Him
2. If we endure – we will reign with Him
3. If we deny Him – He will deny us
4. If we are faithless – God remains faithful

**Because God cannot deny Himself**

God is NEVER faithless – God is ALWAYS faithful to us and to who He is. God is faithfulness!

**Conclusion:** Do you remember the story of Gideon from the Old Testament?

 (Judges 6:11-

1. An Angel appears to Gideon and gives him his assignment (“mighty man of Valor”) Judges 6:12
2. God tells Gideon that he has too many men (Judges 7:3)

22,000 were given the chance to leave the army because they were afraid

1. 10,000 – the water test – only 300 men lapped the water like a dog - so the Lord tells Gideon he will win the battle with 300 men (Judges 7:7)
2. The battle plan (Judges 7:20)
3. The Victory: (Judges 7:22)

Gideon was soldier of God. He did what God said even though He did not understand. He was “surprised” at being a soldier to be used by God. But God always fights our battles. He is the one who wins for us. We need to learn we are soldiers for God but it is God who wins our battles.